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4TH DISTRICT, COLORADO

ENERGY AND COMMERCE COMMITTEE
ENERGY AND POWER SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE
OIL, GAS, AND INVESTIGATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0604

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Shaun McGrath, Administrator
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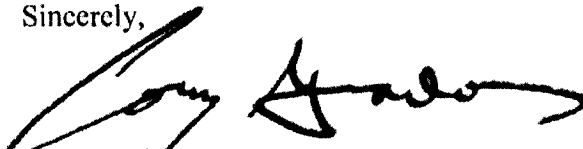
Dear Administrator McGrath:

As you know, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) chose Colorado as one of the locations for a public listening session regarding the latest coal regulations issued by the Obama Administration. I am hopeful that attendees at today's listening session raise concerns about the negative consequences the Administration's decisions have had on the coal industry and the American people. Colorado is one of the nation's largest coal producers—in 2012 alone, Colorado coal mines produced more than 28 million tons of this vital resource, providing more than sixty percent of our state's electricity. Communities throughout Colorado rely on the well-paying jobs, economic benefits, and reliable power generation that coal sustains.

The President's anti-coal initiatives impact more than those individuals and families working in coal mines. In Colorado and the United States, coal unit closures have eliminated thousands of megawatts of electric generating capacity. Such a sharp reduction in relatively cheap and abundant energy leaves consumers with higher energy bills and an undersupplied power grid. Seniors, low-income households, and others on fixed-incomes should not be forced to decide between paying their monthly electricity bill and buying groceries.

While I support efforts to incorporate renewable energy into our power grid, I also believe there must be a place for coal—a true all-of-the-above energy strategy. Forcing coal site closures increases the cost of electricity, cripples economic activity, and leads to shrinking local tax bases. Our country and the American people cannot afford an ideological attack on coal. Reasonable environmental regulations can coexist with a thriving coal industry. I am hopeful that the EPA and the President will recognize the significant benefits coal provides our nation without working to undermine them through burdensome federal regulation.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
Member of Congress